

# Missouri River

## RECOVERY PROGRAM

2008-08

### NAS Sediment Study

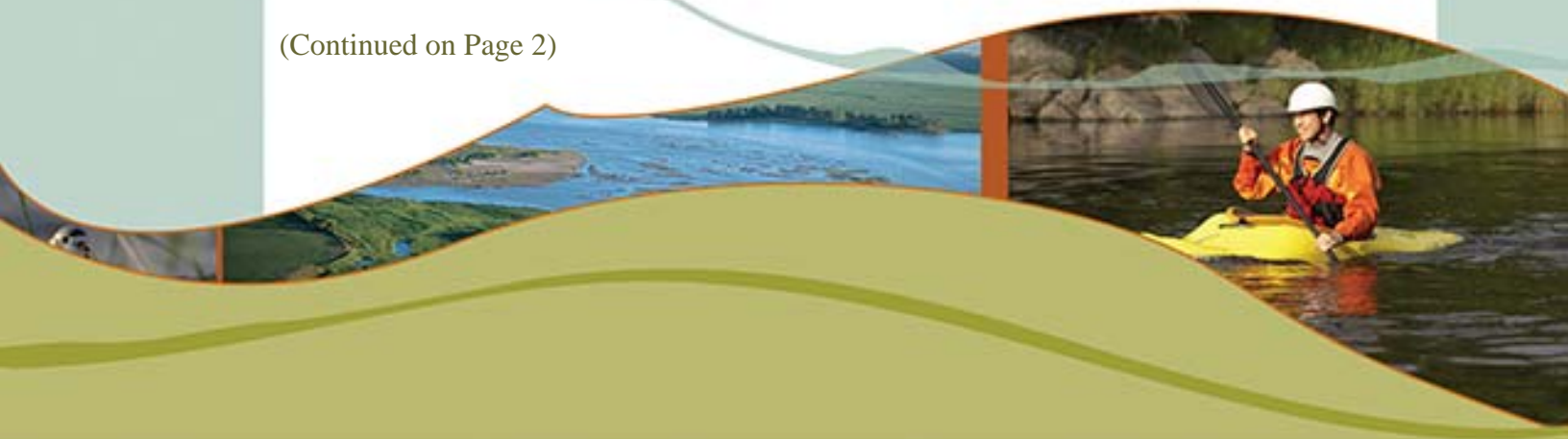
On July 10, 2008, the National Academies announced the following:

#### *Missouri River Recovery and Associated Sediment Management Issues*

At the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Academies' Water Science and Technology Board (WSTB) has formed a new ad hoc committee to carry out a comprehensive study of sediment in and from the Missouri River basin. Sediment from the Missouri River basin affect ecology and contaminant and nutrient loadings throughout the basin and as far as the Louisiana coast and the Gulf of Mexico. Specific questions to be addressed are:

1. How and why is sediment a significant variable in the environmental restoration of a river system like the Missouri River?
2. What is the significance of the Missouri River sediment to the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia problem?
3. What is the significance of the Missouri River sediment to the restoration of Louisiana coastal wetlands?
4. What are the key environmental and economic considerations regarding nutrient loads and/or contaminants in Missouri River sediment? To what extent can such issues be addressed with management strategies?
5. Are there long-term consequences of the lack of sediment in the system to the human environment, either environmentally or economically?
6. Are there alternatives for reintroducing sediment into the system? What are they, and what are the key constraints surrounding these alternatives?
7. Are current Corps' management strategies, restoration tools (e.g., channel widening, creation of chutes, shallow water habitat) and other activities adequate and comprehensive enough to address issues associated with sediment and nutrients in the system? If not, how might such strategies and activities be improved?

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### **NAS Sediment Study, cont.**

Leonard Shabman, Resident Scholar with Resources for the Future, is the committee chair. The study director is Laura Ehlers, WSTB senior staff officer (contact: lehlers@nas.edu or 919-530-1074). The committee will meet five times during its 24-month tenure, and the final report should be published in Summer 2010. Members of this multidisciplinary committee are:

Leonard Shabman, Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C.  
Thomas Dunne, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Robert Meade, U.S. Geological Survey (emeritus), Evergreen, Colo.  
David Galat, U.S. Geological Survey, Columbia, Mo.  
William Graf, University of South Carolina, Columbia  
Rollin Hotchkiss, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah  
Carter Johnson, South Dakota State University, Brookings  
Patricia F. McDowell, University of Oregon, Eugene  
Sujoy Roy, Tetra Tech, Lafayette, Calif.  
Roger Patterson, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles  
Nicholas Pinter, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale  
Donald Scavia, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
Sandra Zellmer, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

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### **Real Estate Acquisition**

Heckman Island, Tracts 5200 and 5200-1 in Montgomery County, Mo., totaling 543 acres, were acquired on July 24, 2008.

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### **Critical Habitat Construction Contracts Awarded**

The Corps has awarded two Multiple Award Task Order Contracts (MATOCs) for the construction of critical habitat, which will help accomplish the mitigation goals outlined in the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project and ensure compliance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003 Amended Biological Opinion.

The following contractors were awarded a contract under the MRRP Downstream Unrestricted Multiple Award Task Order Contract on July 18, 2008:

- Newt Marine Service
- Western Contracting
- Big River Construction
- Hawkins

The dollar value of this MATOC is \$90 million with a geographic boundary from Gavins Point to St. Louis, Mo.

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### **Critical Habitat Construction Contracts Awarded, cont.**

The following contractors were awarded contracts under the MRRP Downstream HUB-Zone MATOC on July 18, 2008:

- Western Contracting
- LW Matteson
- TL Enterprises
- HCI Construction Company

The dollar value of this MATOC is \$10 million with a geographic boundary from Gavins Point to St. Louis, Mo. These contracts will cover a five-year work period, using annual options.

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### **Construction Contract Awards**

#### *Tyson Bend*

A contract for construction at Tyson Bend in southeast Iowa was awarded on July 18, 2008 to Newt Marine Service. The Tyson Bend Project is for the construction of shallow water habitat within the left bank floodplain of the Missouri River between river miles 655.5 and 653.1. This project would produce approximately 116 acres of shallow water habitat on land owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in Harrison County, Iowa, and a small portion of land located in Washington County, Iowa. The project consists of expanding the existing backwater constructed in 2004, constructing a new chute and relocating a boat ramp. Total chute length is 13,500 feet. The chute exit through the existing backwater includes a rock separation dike and also an outlet dike revision to reduce backwater sediment deposition.

#### *Langdon Bend*

A contract for construction at Langdon Bend near Nemaha, Neb., was awarded on July 18, 2008 to Western Contracting. Langdon Bend Wetland Restoration Project is to mitigate for aquatic and terrestrial habitat losses that resulted from past channeling efforts on the Missouri River as part of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project. The project area is located along the right descending bank landward of Federal Levee 548 of the Missouri River between river miles 530 and 531. The project is to develop wetland areas in three of six separate land management units within the project area. Wetland areas will be created by constructing earthen berms, piping, water control structures and groundwater wells to supplement precipitation and runoff. At maximum pool levels, approximately 220 acres of wetlands would be created within the three units.

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### **Pallid Sturgeon Report Available**

The final report from the workshop held last summer on Research Needs and Management Strategies for Pallid Sturgeon Recovery is now available. You can obtain a hard copy for no charge by contacting Julia Towns at the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center Library (phone 573-876-1853; e-mail [jtowns@usgs.gov](mailto:jtowns@usgs.gov)).

The report is also available online at:

<http://infolink.cr.usgs.gov/Science/PallidSturgeon/PSWorkshop07.pdf>